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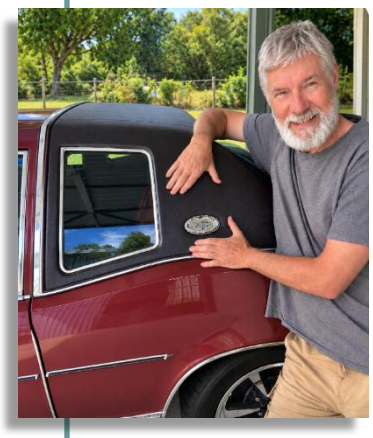
NOVEMBER 2026

The Australian Riview

ROA AUSTRALIAN REGION



SHARE THE PRIDE



Editorial

In this edition we take a look at the 2026 East Coast Meet that NSW Buick Club managed at South West Rocks at the beginning of September this year.

We saw a large contingent of Rivieras attend this meet and thus we got some great photos of them cruising around the popular seaside town.

Our cover this edition also celebrates the Rivs at South West Rocks with Terry and Barbara Searle's 1973 parked at the gate to the Trial Bay Gaol.

We give a brief article on the East Coast Meet later in this edition starting on page 11. Riv popularity continues to grow on the east coast with fully one third of the participating Buicks being Rivieras!

I snapped a photo that possibly demonstrates that you don't have to go to the Blue Mountains to see the Three Sisters, here they are at South West Rocks!

Of course, now that I have sold my '65 I have changed my editor's photo to incorporate our other Riv, the '78.

Please enjoy this edition of The Australian Riview!





G'day from the Regional Co-Ordinator

Fellow ROA Member Darren Berry paid me a visit at Riviera Lane to have a look at some door skins that I have for sale, left over from my 1965 Riviera Restoration.

Darren has just started on a full body off restoration of a 1964 Riviera.

The door skins were bought from Larry Daisey in 2016. Sadly, Larry is no longer with us.

Larry was living in the Arizona desert which makes it safe to have metal parts stored outside exposed to the weather with little chance of corrosion due to the low humidity. In fact, if there is less than 60% humidity there is not enough moisture in the air to form the water film needed for oxidation.

So, you see if the part you require from a vendor is located in the desert you can buy with confidence.

Darren told me that when he orders parts from the USA that the response time to his order can take considerable time. Indeed, some vendors will not even take orders if the person is outside the USA!

Darren is grateful that the exchange rate is much better than in the past. And let's not start with shipping costs. It is not uncommon for shipping to be the same if not more that the cost for the part(s).

All of the above challenges make up the journey of a major restoration.

Out of the effort of such a large undertaking the objective is to enjoy the process until completion. I am confident that Darren will provide a detailed report on his progress in 2027.

Cheers

Tom

For Sale in 1965

What we missed here in Australia, well most of us missed, as we are aware that some brand new 1965 Rivs did come into the country for conversion and sale at the larger metropolitan GM dealers here.

I recall going into the Zupps dealership at Mt Gravatt here in Brisbane and seeing a few Buick Electras in the showroom parked amongst the HQ Holdens on display.

This photo comes from the showroom of Baker Buick in Cadillac, Michigan. They are still in the business today and still selling Buicks; however, I doubt they have anything as exciting in their showroom now as a 1965 Riviera for sale these days.

A 1965 Riv with a 401 Wild Cat motor for US$4,895. I'll have two please!

Now where is that time machine . . .



2027 Buick Nationals EOI

This may seem a little early however it is never too early to get into your 2027 diaries and that may be just what you need to do to secure your position at the Buick Nationals to be hosted by the Victorian Buick Car Club and held in Warrnambool in Victoria from 3rd October to 9th October next year.

ROA National Coordinator, Tom Kunek, will ensure that any of us who can make it to the event in our Rivieras will be well looked after as it is his home state after all!

The Victorian Club have released an Expression of Interest form that you might like to fill out and return to the Club. We have included a copy of it below. Contact Dennis or Esther Healy as it suggests.

Warrnambool is located at the western end of the Great Ocean Road where the Hopkins Highway meets the sea.

The good news is that the average October daytime temperature in Warrnambool is a mild 18 degrees, however it can get hotter so make sure the radiator is in good condition and topped up for this one.

Activities will be based around the Warrnambool Surf Life Saving Club where we will be dining each evening.

Accommodation will be available, however, as with all Buick Nationals, you should make sure you book early as numbers are limited!



Buick Car Club of Australia Inc (Victoria)

60th Anniversary National Celebration
Warrnambool Victoria

3rd – 8th October, 2027

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

The Event includes the cost of all entry fees, all dinners and 2 boxed lunches.

Please note that the event is based on your attendance for the full week in order to make management and co ordination easy for you to fill out the form and for the organising committee to coordinate.

If you are only to attend some days, we will provide you with the costs.

Cancellation will require 21 days' notice prior to the event so adjustments can be made. A full refund will be made in these circumstances. Please Note: Bookings for events and catering are locked in months prior to the event.

You will need to book your own accommodation.

Participants Details

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number attending: _____

Event Cost

Cost per person - Registration Fee included - approximately	$450

Please submit your interest to either Dennis or Esther Healy

Email: estden@bigpond.com

Your early response would be appreciated

Bargain or Not?

As each mid-year approached in the USA the deals on cars accelerated.

With new models just around the corner, it was imperative for dealers to clear the show rooms of what would soon become obsolete stock!

We came across a couple of June ads that demonstrate the urgency.

Dorschel Buick (Rochester, NY) ran this ad (at right) in the local paper for the soon to be superceded 1967 Buick range. How about a brand-new Riviera for just US$3,997. The retail price for a standard Riviera for 1967 was US$4,607 so this really was a bargain!

Or similarly a year earlier, at Roanoke Motor Sales (Virginia), you could get yourself into a new 1966 Riviera for US$4,660. Now the list price for 1966 suggested the retail price for a standard Riviera should have been US$4,378 so this car must have had some options and we do note that this car had air conditioning, so that's part of the reason for the higher price.





Looks like it is worth waiting for the mid year deals when it comes to buying a Riv!

Riviera – Camaro Link

I wouldn't necessarily have associated the 1967 Camaro with the 1963 Riviera, however after reading an interesting article on the Hagerty website I am starting to see the connection.

Writer Gary Witzenburg's article published on 23 October 2019 has these words to say on the matter:

Inspired by the elegant '63 Buick Riviera launching that fall to take on Ford's Thunderbird "personal coupe," Chevrolet styling chief Irv Rybicki pondered the idea of doing something similar in concept, though smaller and much more affordable, that could share the new-for-'62 compact Chevy II's unibody/front-stub-frame platform and mechanicals. When he suggested exploring such a car to vice president of GM Design William L. "Bill" Mitchell, Mitchell was intrigued. He agreed to move forward with it, provided the project's work took place outside the building where no one would see what they were up to.

We have provided just a couple of the development photos to whet your appetite, go HERE to read the full and most interesting story about the creation of the Camaro and find out that while you may have been told that the Camaro was designed to fight the Mustang after its successful release on 17 April 1964, GM was already advanced on what they initially thought wasn't required to be built, but soon changed their minds.

You can thank the beautiful lines of the Series I Riviera for inspiring what has become yet another GM icon car!



October 1964 Clay Model

1962 Clay Model based on the Chevy II

The Arctic Cover Car



When we featured Tom Campbell and his 65 on the cover last edition, we stirred up memories from Ari Blinnikka who owned it some years ago when he lived in the Scandinavian region.

Close to the Arctic Circle, indeed as Ari puts it, 22,600 km away from here and around the 72 degrees parallel North!

Ari even send us a couple of photos of the Riv, this time in that colder part of the world.





Boattail Torpedo . . .?

If you can spare a couple of minutes, just two will do, you can view what one man has made after viewing some of the early sketches that showed designs for the Tucker Torpedo Prototype II as imagined by Alex Tremulis.

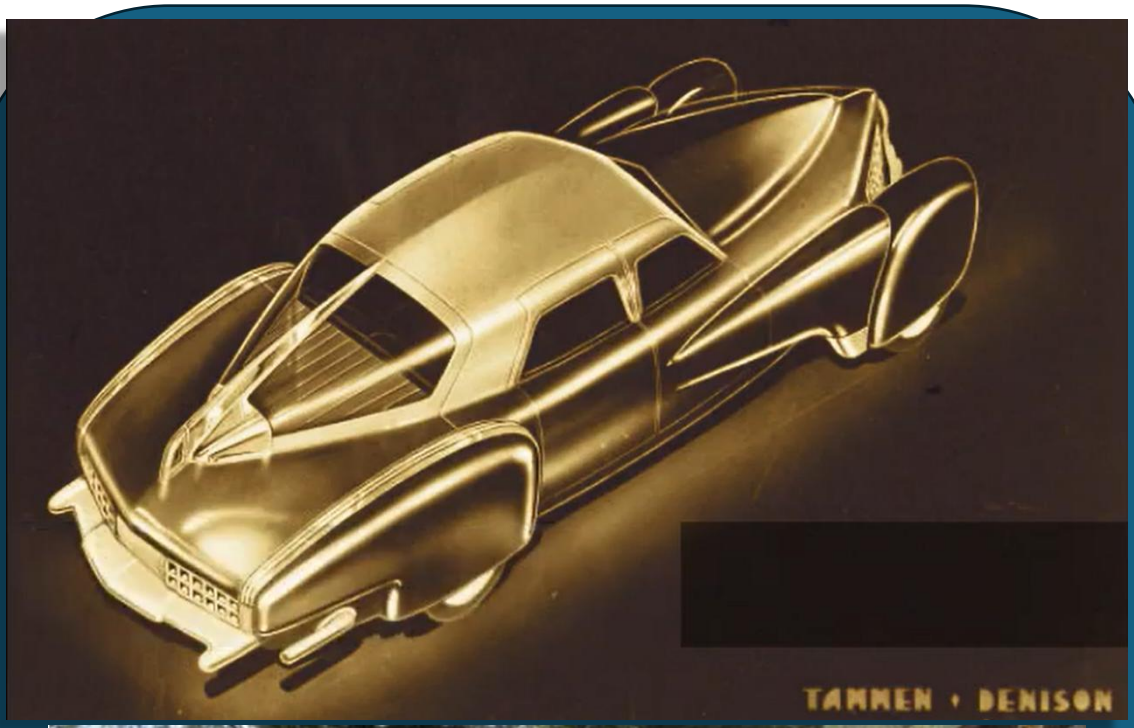
Yes, you are right, we are not a Tucker magazine so why are we looking at this?

Simple, Roy Tucker (no relation) used a 1971 Boattail Riviera as the basis for his reproduction of the initial sketches.

Whether he got it right, or even close, is for you to determine.

It's a Riv, so how bad could it be!

Check out the video HERE.





A few more photos of the car . . if I can call it that!









1970 Video Review

This YouTube clip premiered on December 1, 2024, and host Jay talks us through the 1970 Riviera and the unfolding events of the day before a deeper dive into the final Series II Riveria design.

The Riv was designed by Ray Holls and in this video we get a good comparison of the 1969 and 1970 models as well as photos of all of the second generation Rivs.

With 32 minutes of video in front of you the details keep coming. Some of the stock material is a bit rare and the watch may be worth it just to see the original advertising material.

This particular Riv was for sale at the time at Classic Auto Mall Morgantown, Pennsylvania.

Settle in and enjoy the video HERE.





The 2026 East Coast Meet

30 entries in 27 Buicks made for a great time in South West Rocks this past September at the East Coast Meet coordinated by the NSW club in 2026.

The management team led by John Saddington as the Emcee provided us all with some interesting and enjoyable sights and sensation in what many have described as the pearl of the Pacific Coast.

Although the climbing test on the Friday nearly put some of us out of action for a while, the view from the Smoky Cape lighthouse was spectacular for sure.

John and the team led us through a series of events including a surprise (for the children) ten Buick car show with another larger group of Buicks peering through the fence around this tiny-town school in Gladstone.

We spent some time in a goal, haunted some of the commercial outlets around town and even performed a parade at the Rusty Iron Rally at Macksville.

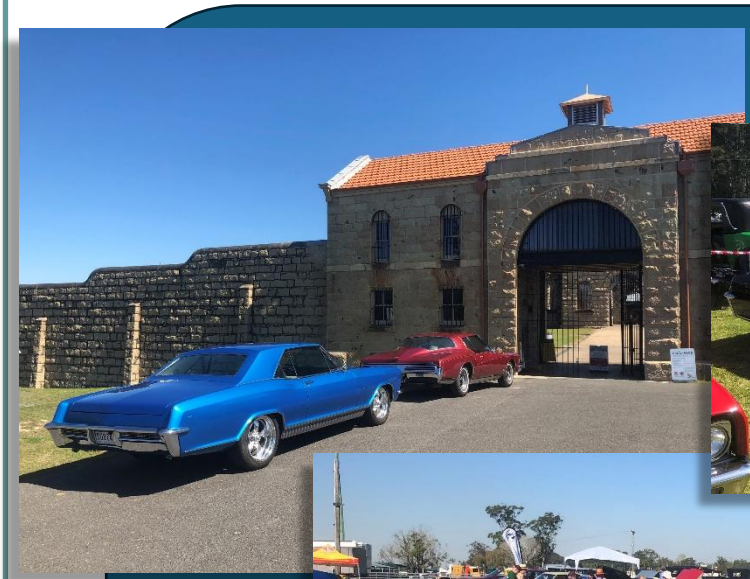
All and all, another outstanding effort by the Buick Club event team.

A total of nine Rivieras made up a full 1/3rd of the Buicks on show at South West Rocks this year.

Two 1965 Rivs started off the list and our 1978 capped off the range of Rivs on show.

A limited number of Buicks were admitted on to the Gladstone Public School oval for a display and discussion with the children of that school. Upon completion the children were given the chance to nominate their favourite car from the ten on display and it was Adrian Dearling's 1965 GS that took home the trophy. Even youngsters know it when they see a classic!

Enjoy some photos from across the weekend below and you can enjoy a full photo display of the meet HERE photographed by *Barbara Gentilcore*.













The East Coast Meet Attendees in Rivs



Jim and Virginia Russell 1974



Greg and Geraldine Massey 1968



John and Laurene Forster 1978

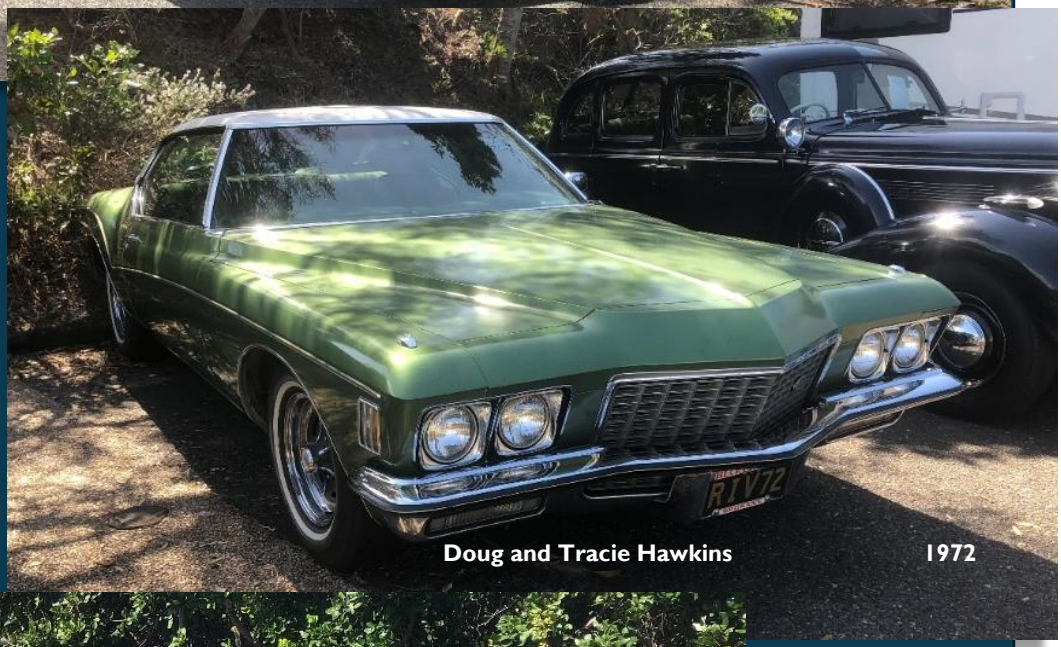

Tony and Barbara Gentilcore 1965


AJV 77
Terry and Barbara Searle 1973


John Stewart 1983 convertible



Peter and Janelle Tight 1972



Doug and Tracie Hawkins 1972



Adrian and Vicki and Mitch Dearling 1965 GS

Adrian also picked up the Children's Choice Trophy at Gladstone Public School!

Here are some more photos from the East Coast Meet including the awards night and some from the Rusty Iron Rally at Macksville where the Buicks got to demonstrate their features to the appreciative crowd with a lap of the oval and a comprehensive detail review by the NSW President and event Emcee, John Saddington.



A line of Rivs . . on display!

And even more Rivs . .









A line of Rivs . . on Parade!

An Emcee and his Vice Emcee . . both did a great job!

Convertible Riv For Sale

John Stewart took delivery of his 1983 Riviera Convertible in 2018 and registered it in 2019 after some upgrading to what was a trophy winning car in the USA and here in Australia after John took on the ownership.

All 1983 Riv convertibles were painted either red or white, no other choices were available. All came with red leather interiors; no other choice was available.

After going down the GM production line these special cars were sent off to the American Sunroof Company for extensive modification to become what was at the time the highest price Riv you could get, possibly, the highest price GM car available some say.

Costing US$26,000 when new that was about twice the price of the standard Riv at that time.

Now offered for sale for the first time in Australia, this Riv comes fully loaded with the 307 V8 engine and four speed automatic gearbox.

After some years as a trailer queen in the US there was considerable work to be done to bring this Riv back to life as an everyday road car and John has achieved that, such that this Riv is now fit and able to travel anywhere, anytime!

Currently showing a little over 128,000 miles on the odometer this could be your *dream-come-true* convertible Riv for $28,000.

After seeing it in the flesh, I mean the metal, at the East Coast Meet, I reckon it's a bargain, but that's only my opinion.

Contact John Stewart at j.s.stewart@bigpond.com





Top Up, Top Down

Top Riv!






5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85
UNLEADED FUEL ONLY
RND321


83RTV




83RTV

The Macksville Find . .

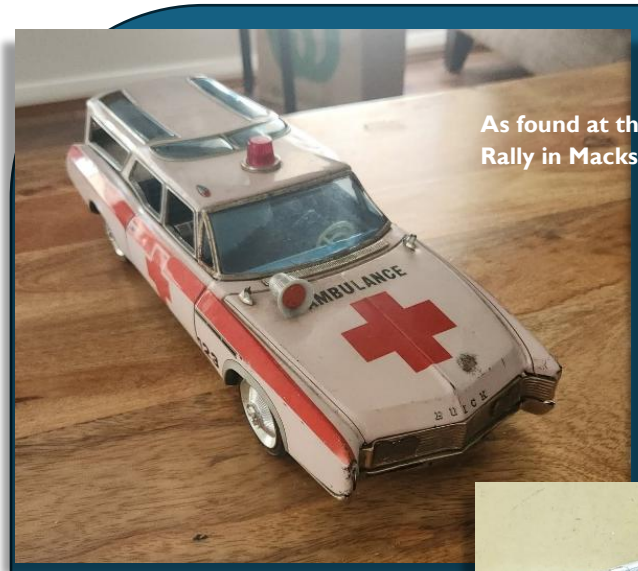
While most of the Riv drivers at the East Coast Meet were busy getting on doing not too much, one seeker of all things Riviera was busy scouring the stalls in and around the showgrounds.

And his efforts were rewarded not only with rare items from Buicks past but a toy that soon took everyone's attention . . well, mine in any case!

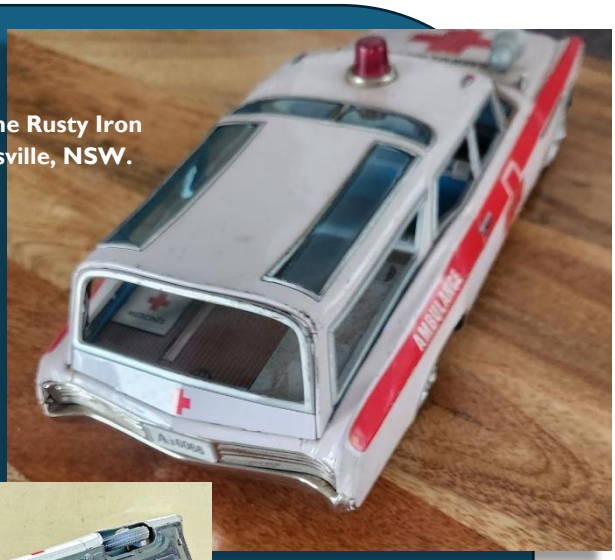
The find being a Buick Riviera Station Wagon Ambulance Asakusa Japan Toy tin car, that's quite a mouthful!

While we aren't entirely sure what payment was exchanged for the toy, which by the photos looks to be in fairly good condition, you might consider what these Asakusa tin toy Riviera based wagons have been selling for on eBay.

Happy toy hunting to you all . .



As found at the Rusty Iron Rally in Macksville, NSW.







For sale on eBay September 2026 at US$524.90



What about a Fire Chief's Riviera wagon, a snip and for sale on eBay September 2026 at US$640.00

Suppliers and Repairers

We will run ads until advised to withdraw them. Please ensure that when your items are no longer available you let us know so that we can ensure the freshness of the information contained w thin this section of the magazine. Many thanks!

If you have had a job well done from a repairer, then why not let others know about it. Send in details of your good experiences so they can be printed here.

Dan's Classic Auto Parts of Portland OR - www.dansclassic.com

BJ Panel Restoration and Fabrication,

Thornlands. Qld.

Bill - 0403 120 921

(panel beating, rust repairs, fiberglass repairs, modifications)

Bill works in conjunction with -

Carr Creation Auto Refinishing,

Graham Carr - 0411 588 272

Thornlands. Qld.

(spray painting specialists).

Annvid Auto Upholsterers,

24 Smith Street,

Capalaba. Qld. 4157

Tel: 07 3390 3444

Mt. Cotton Auto Electrics,

Mob: 0429 193 815

Spectrum Rubber and Panels Pty.Ltd.

P.O. Box 328,

St. Marys. N.S.W. 1790

Tel: 02 9623 5333 Fax: 02 9833 1041

Email: sales@spectrumrubber.com.au

Website: www.spectrumrubber.com.au

Tim Harper has advised the following -

Repco now stock K & N filters for Rivieras.

The K&N E-1360 Air cleaner suits single carb Buick and Riviera applications from 1965-1967,

see listing:

http://www.knfilters.com/search/applications.aspx?Prod=E-1360

Note: There was a Dual Quad filter, if you can't find listing try by Dimensions.

The K&N HP-2003 oil filter suits Nailheads and Rivieras up to 1978, check listing:

http://www.knfilters.com/search/applications.aspx?Prod=HP-2003

Go to www.knfilters.com and click on BUY you get a list of suppliers and installers for your Australian postcode.

Brown's Springworks P/L (David Mitchell)

New coil and leaf springs custom made at a very reasonable price. New rear springs made for my '67 Riv.

11 Lipton Dve, Thomastown, Vic. (03) 9460 8622.
(Recommended by: John Offer)

G.J. Drivelines (Gary or Mac)

Driveshaft balancing including 2 piece shafts balanced as one unit.

2/189Cheltenham Rd, Keysborough, Vic (03) 9706 3166.
(Recommended by: John Offer)

Note: This is not in any way an endorsement of these businesses. It is just giving members leads to businesses that other members have had a good experience with.

The Market Place

1963-65 Factory Literature on CD. 1963-65 Dealer Service Bulletins (supplement to shop manual), 1963-64 $10, 1965 $12; 1963 Master Chassis Parts Book $10, searchable with numerous illustrations. Delivered to you by email as a digital CD image file; you burn your own CD from the file. No shipping cost when done this way! Jim Cannon ROA #9774, 63Rivvy@gmail.com, +1 -832-692-2288.

For Sale: Headers to suit 455 from Speedway Motors, Dougs Headers part # 447020R $1500 Jim Harkess Contact at qual1770@bigpond.net.au

For Sale: 1965 doors skins for sale. No rust. $400.00 for both
63 64 65 Buick Riviera Power Steering Box 18:1 ratio - $50
Dash speaker grille in excellent condition – Free
Sun visors Gray in V/G condition - Free
1963 - Flat wiring loom which runs the length of the floor pan. – Free to good home!
Great to have as a spare.
Tom Kunek 0419 658 500

Wanted: 1964 Front bumper and lower valance panel below the bumper and a secondhand rotisserie for a 1964 restoration project. Darren Berry 0423375214.

BUICK Disc Brake Conversion Bracket Kits (63-70 Riviera, 61-70 Electra, LeSabre, Invicta and Wildcat) (these bracket kits are designed to use 71-76 Riviera rotors and calipers) View details and pricing at www.mako.com.au
Tony Gentilcore 0408 964 217 email: tonyg@mako.com.au

Market Place continued . . .

Parting Out: 1967 Riviera. Bucket seats, floor change, factory disc brakes, car full of parts, no motor or gearbox , Call Doug Hawkins 0418 631 233

For Sale: 1971 Riviera. Professional restoration 12 years ago. Runs and drives nicely. Asking $55k. Contact Peter Hughes 0417296764



1963-65 Factory Literature on CD. 1963-65 Dealer Service Bulletins (supplement to shop manual), 1963-64 $10, 1965 $12; 1963 Master Chassis Parts Book $10, searchable with numerous illustrations. Delivered to you by email as a digital CD image file; you burn your own CD from the file. No shipping cost when done this way! Jim Cannon ROA #9774, 63Rivvy@gmail.com, +1 -832-692-2288.
For Sale: 63 64 65 Buick Riviera Power Steering Box 18:1 ratio - $50
Dash speaker grille in excellent condition – Free
Sun visors Gray in V/G condition - Free
1963 - Flat wiring loom which runs the length of the floor pan. – Free to good home!
Great to have as a spare.
Tom Kunek 0419 658 500
For Sale: 2x 15x7" Centreline Fluted Star, 2x 15x8" Centreline Fluted Star
Will suit any full size 5on5" (5/127) stud pattern.
$800 + shipping or collect in Sydney
Seller: Andrew Hodgeson 0418 289998
email: rocklee@bigpond.net.au
Wanted: 64-65 401-425 block. Rob Rooders 0414 662 975 lonewolf_surf@hotmaiul.com
For Sale: BUICK 455 Stage 1 Big Valve Heads.
Stage 1 valves with heavy duty valve springs. Excellent bolt on horsepower upgrade. Pair are in excellent condition and very rare. Can organise freight at buyer's expense or able to drop off at freight depot. Pick up Melbourne 3023 Price $3500
Andrew Liapis andrewliapis@gmail.com



Wanted: 1964 Front bumper and lower valance panel below the bumper and a secondhand rotisserie for a 1964 restoration project. Darren Berry 0423375214.
For Sale: 1969 Riviera Billet rear lower control arms, electric headlight actuator conversion, POR 15 undercoated, 18x8 American Racing wheels (original mags included) Rebuilt 430/4 Buick motor, Solid Body, No Rust Many photos and videos available. Car in the USA. Contact Rupert Ellis wideglide94@gmail.com Cell Number: 214.733.3132

For Sale: Wheel Centre Hubs $70 each, Re-chromed Console Cover $80. Range of second hand and new control arm bushes and tie rod ends and idler arms. Factory new a/c compressor still in sealed gas. New a/c pressure valve. New front disc brake assembly conversion with master cylinder and pressure proportioning valve. Digital radio conversion for 68-69 Riv from Antique Car Radio Conversions in the US. Email for information: ari.blinn@hotmail.com

For Sale: Headers to suit 455 from Speedway Motors, Dougs Headers part # 447020R $1500 Jim Harkess Contact at qual1770@bigpond.net.au

For Sale: 1968 Riv. The car has been rubbed back close to bear metal body is straight with the exception of the passenger door. Motor is fresh & powerful car that runs and drives.
Needs paint & interior work mainly the driver's seat.
Max Gelai 0456731500
For Sale: Rebuild gasket set for 401 engine $150 plus postage and rebuild gasket set for Dynaflow gearbox $100 plus postage. Paul McKennariey psmck@tpg.com.au

Wanted: RHF mudguard for a 1965 Riv. Contact Norm Bernhardt in Perth on 040 777 2723.

For Sale: 1963 Riviera 401 auto. Much work carried out on this immaculate Riviera. Full details HERE Contact Jan Norback: 0407217204 Email: jan_norback@hotmail.com
For Sale 1963 Buick Riviera Coupe – Matching-Numbers 401, Nailhead V8. I imported the vehicle from Plano, Texas, in 2017 and have proudly owned and cared for this Riviera ever since. The original Texas Certificate of Title is on hand. Full details go HERE. **Contact Duran – 0417 445 450 Email: duranatiga1@gmail.com**

ROA AUSTRALIAN REGION

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This e-magazine is produced under the auspices of the Riviera Owners Association USA and the Buick Car Club of Australia Qld Inc. to cater for the needs of car enthusiasts with an interest in the Riviera produced between 1963 and 1999.

Riviera Owners Association – PO Box 261218, DENVER, CO USA, 80226

303-233-2987, office@rivowners.org , www.rivowners.org

It is a medium created for the exchange of stories and ideas. Its aim is to support enthusiasts in Australia in the preservation and use of the Buick Riviera built between 1963 and 1999.

The editors welcome contributions at ausriview@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.RIVOWNERS.ORG

Membership

Please encourage any Riviera owners you meet to join the R.O.A.

It's simple, just log on to the R.O.A. web site.

DON'T FORGET, IF YOU DO SELL YOUR RIVIERA, LEAVE DETAILS ON JOINING THE ROA IN THE CAR

Weird, No Wonder, It's a Ford!

Not that this is about a Riviera however we present this photo anyway. It is odd, to me at least, a side opening trunk or boot lid on a sedan.



The car in the photo is a Ford Mercury Marquis, but we were unsure if a model ever had this feature, or if this is one of those AI generated sham photos.

After a bit of web digging, we discovered that this was a real car, or at least a real prototype car, a 1968 Le Grande Marquis that was constructed by Ford to test out a few novel design ideas.

This dual opening boot lid was based on the dual action tailgates that were becoming common from 1966 onwards.

If you want to get the fuller story perhaps you could go to the Macs Motor City Garage site HERE.